

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) RFI-HMS-224-17-07-HPO
HOUSING PLACEMENT PROGRAM**

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS)
BENEFIT, EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION (BESSD)
HOMELESS PROGRAMS OFFICE (HPO)**

The State of Hawai'i, through the Department of Human Services (DHS), Benefit, Employment & Support Services Division (BESSD), Homeless Programs Office (HPO) issues this Request for Information (RFI) to seek information and recommendations from the general public, private sector, and community-based organizations, as well as religious organizations pursuant to Section 104, Public Law 104-193.

The mission of the DHS is to provide quality, efficient and effective services designed to help homeless individuals and families access permanent housing through the Housing Placement Program (HPP). HPP is an intervention program designed to help TANF eligible families to quickly exit homelessness, return to housing in the community, and avoid future homelessness. The core components of HPP are housing identification and location services, move-in and time-limited rental assistance, and case management services. HPP will comply with all established policies developed by DHS regarding prioritization and eligibility for this service.

Programs funded under this opportunity will use a Housing First (HF) approach to service delivery. The goals of the HF approach are to help homeless people access permanent housing as rapidly as possible by removing barriers to program entry, assisting with quickly locating and accessing housing options and providing HPP case management services and support post housing to promote stability and prevent evictions and returns to homelessness. Pre-conditions to HPP program entry such as sobriety and completion of treatment programs are not consistent with the HF approach. In HF, the expectations are that people will assume the full rights and responsibilities of tenancy, meet standard lease obligations and will not be terminated from HPP for other reasons besides violations of standard lease requirements. Staff use assertive engagement strategies to teach tenancy skills, assist participants in achieving housing goals, connect households with income through employment and benefits, make connections to community services and stabilization supports, and prevent eviction and returns to homelessness.

The information and recommendations received through this RFI will assist the DHS in preparing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure the aforementioned services for the Housing Placement Program (HPP).

An orientation meeting will not be held. Responses to this RFI are to be submitted in writing, no later than September 16, 2016, 4:30 PM Hawai'i Standard Time (HST), to:

Department of Human Services
Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division

Homeless Programs Office
820 Mililani Street, Suite 606
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Attn: June Tong, Program Specialist
Phone: (808) 586-7254
JTong@dhs.hawaii.gov

The Department may engage in further informal discussions to gather additional information and recommendations. The Department reserves the right to incorporate in a solicitation, if issued, for such contract, any information and recommendations present and/or submitted in response to this RFI. Neither the Department nor any respondent to the RFI bears any obligation under this RFI.